

May 2007



# FIRST DUE



Franklin County Public Safety, 1488 Franklin St.,  
Rocky Mount, VA 24151

## Special points of interest:

- \* Heart Alert Program
- \* Volunteer Opportunities
- \* Training Weekend
- \* FCDPS Honor Guard
- \* NIMS
- \* Master List

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Franklin County Public Safety is in the process of creating new opportunities to volunteer in fire and emergency medical services. The administration office frequently receives inquiries from trained personnel in fire and EMS with credentials ranging from fire-fighter I and EMT up to fire instructor and paramedic. Most of the inquiries are from citizens who are employed in other jurisdictions who live in Franklin County and have a desire to help in their home communities, however they do not have time and/or desire to devote to a traditional volunteer organization. With these thoughts in mind FCDPS administration has entertained several ideas about how to get this trained resources into the volunteer ranks. A program has been de-

veloped to allow citizens to volunteer directly for the public safety department to assist with staffing fire and EMS trucks to answer calls for service along with other related duties. This is in no way meant to "rob" agencies of members but instead to act as another avenue to recruit new volunteers. These new team members will fall under the chain of command of FCDPS and will be furnished uniforms and equipment to safely provide services. If you are interested in this new approach or know someone who is please contact the administration office at 483-3091 and talk to Billy Ferguson for additional information



## NEW VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

## HEART ALERT

Franklin County Public Safety was recently invited to participate in a program called "Heart Alert" that was developed by Carilion Health System. This program is aimed at getting heart attack patients to the CATH Lab quicker. Selected paramedics will be

asked to be part of the field providers able to activate the cardiac services to perform this. Mike Pruitt, Tim Radford, Rena Jennings and Bryan Ferguson recently completed the required multi-lead EKG program which is the first step, they will now be placed with

a cardiac surgeon in the lab while he does a procedure. Also in the program is Roanoke City, Roanoke County, Salem, and Botetourt. This is a very advanced skill level that we are proud to be a part of. We will continue to train selected providers to this level.

## BECOMING A MEMBER OF AN AGENCY

It begins with you filling out an application and returning it to the Captain or Chief of the agency you wish to join or to Franklin County Public Safety. Once the completed application is received, it is sent to Bennie Russell to do a background and driver check on the applicant. Once that process is completed, Bennie will send a letter to the appropriate Captain or Chief notifying the agency of the outcome of the background and driver checks. Once this letter is sent out from Bennie, Annette Law will send the Captain or Chief another form asking whether or

not to add the applicant to the agency's roster. If the Captain or Chief indicates that the applicant should be added, they are then added to the master roster at FCPS. The applicant is then sent a welcome letter containing various forms which need to be completed by the new volunteer and a request is made for the volunteer to come in to the Public Safety administrative offices to get an identification card. Additions of new volunteers to the master roster are done daily. Twice yearly, the Captains and Chiefs are sent information re-

garding updating their roster information. It is VERY important that all volunteers be listed on the master roster as this list determines insurance coverage and stipend reimbursements. If you have a question about whether you are listed as a volunteer or need to obtain an identification card, contact either Annette Law or Dana Miller at 483-3091, extension 6.

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**One of the best  
ways to persuade  
others is by  
listening to them**

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## PUBLIC SAFETY TRAINING WEEKEND

The first annual Southwest Virginia Public Safety training weekend was held April 13 and 14 at Ferrum College. The event began with a dinner and Congressman Virgil Goode speaking on Friday night and then continued throughout the weekend until conclusion on Sunday afternoon. The event had a total of 45 students who completed one or more classes. The following classes were conducted

during the weekend, Foundations of Leadership, Basic Disaster Life Support, Advanced Cardiac Life Support, Pediatric Advanced Life Support and International Trauma Life Support. The class was comprised of students from the following locations, Franklin County, Pittsylvania County, Henry County, Bland County, Botetourt County, Patrick County, Roanoke County, Christiansburg and Martins-

ville. The class was very professionally put together and the food was great. A big thank you should go out to everyone who help make the class a success and to the training division of Franklin County Public Safety.

## DID YOU KNOW?

As I write this article I wonder how many members are aware of the fact that Franklin County Public Safety has an Honor Guard. It is TRUE. FCDPS's Honor Guard has been in existence since September 11, 2001. Yes the date is correct, as a matter of fact the guard was training just a few miles from the Pentagon when the plane hit it. Our Honor Guard was trained by the United States Army, "C" Company, 3rd Infantry which is referred to as

the Old Guard. FCDPS Honor Guard is available for any special function and also is a very touching moment to a funeral for members who have passed. The Honor Guard members are: Mona Hodges, Bennie Russell, Richard Glass, Bobby Hodges, Harold Ellis, Marion Ellis, Lisa McCall and Andy Pendleton. For more information or to join please contact Bennie Russell at the administration office.



## NATIONAL EMS WEEK

As a part of National Emergency Medical Services week which is May 21 thru May 25, 2007 Franklin County Public Safety will be hosting a get together for all providers. Come join us on May 21st from 5:00 PM until 8:00 PM at the Waid Park Recreation Area which is located off of Six Mile Post Road, for an evening full of fun, snacks, gifts and camaraderie. Did I mention that Homestead Creamery will be there? Please feel free to bring your families along and stay for a while or just drop in and say hello. To ensure what we have snacks for everyone, we ask that

you contact Public Safety if you are planning on attending at 483-3091. This fun event is sponsored by Franklin County Public Safety and Carilion Health Systems.



## CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations are in order to several team members who have continued to improve the level of service that they are able to offer our citizens. The following team members recently successfully completed the Emergency Medical Technician- Enhanced Program: Anna Thomas from station 10, Chuck LaBounty from station 8, Doug Robinson, from station 7 and Donna McManus from station 14.

The following team members recently competed the Fire Fighter I certification through the state of Virginia: Paige Johnson from station 7 and Sherry Lane from station 1. The following staff have recently completed the ARFF classes John Scott and Scott Fulcher from the career division, Scott Cowan and Scott Hargett from station 14. If you see any of these team members please con-

gratulate them on this major achievement in their education as they continue to strive to offer our citizens a higher level of protection.




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**It is better to  
deserve honors  
and not have  
them than to have  
them and not  
deserve them.**

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**"Mark Twain"**

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## FIRST HEART ALERT PATIENT

As you have read in a previous article Franklin County Public Safety is part of a project put together by Carilion to get faster care to heart attack victims by passing the ED and going straight to the CATH Lab. The career staff recently had their first experience with this new practice. Bruce Wall and Anthony Hodges received an award from Carilion Cardiac services on April 18, 2007 at a meeting at RMH. The award stemmed from a call re-

sponded in the Penhook section of the county. The staff on Med 1-9 responded and after evaluating the patient and conducting a 12 lead EKG determined that the patient was having an evolving heart attack. Once this was determined a "field heart alert" was called and the staff at RMH activated the CATH lab. The total time from call received until patient was CATHED was 80 minutes. Great job Bruce and Anthony





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## VISION STATEMENT

**Franklin County's Department of Public Safety is dedicated to providing emergency services, to include, but not limited to, Fire, EMS, Animal Control and Emergency Management that are, Delivered in a timely and efficient manner by well-trained and dedicated career and volunteer professionals**

## NIMS—WHERE DO YOU STAND

Did you know that to be eligible for Federal Funds you must be 100% NIMS compliant. There are numerous levels of NIMS and depending on your position within an organization is the level you must attain. NIMS provides a consistent nationwide template to enable all government, private-sector, and nongovernmental organizations to work together during domestic incidents. ICS 700 is an introduction that explains the purpose, principles, key components and benefits of NIMS. ICS 100 describes the history, features and principles, and organizational structure of the Incident Command System. It also explains the relationship between ICS and NIMS. ICS 200

provides training on and resources for personnel who are likely to assume a supervisory position within the ICS. ICS 300 will permit the student to develop an ICS organizational structure, list staffing requirements, prepare a briefing, lead or participate in a planning meeting, identify resources, develop goals, prepare an action plan and become familiar with NIMS. ICS 400 is designed for a multi-discipline audience of staff who would likely serve as incident commanders, area commanders, emergency managers, MACS and EOC managers. Planning, logistics, and fiscal considerations associated with complex incident management and interagency coordi-

nation are covered in depth. Course topics include: Command and General Staff, Deputies and assistants, Unified Command, Relationships between Area Command, Unified Command, Multi Agency Coordination Systems, and EOC's. All the NIMS classes are under Presidential Directive-5. The classes are from 3 hours to 2 days in length. ICS 100, 200, and 700 can be taken on line at [www.franklincountyva.org](http://www.franklincountyva.org). ICS 300 and 400 must be taken in the class setting. For more information please contact Mike Pruitt at the administration office. REMEMBER your federal funding depends on this training.